

ABSTRACT

An information recording medium of the present invention includes a substrate and an information layer arranged on the substrate. The
5 information layer includes a recording layer that is changed in phase reversibly between a crystalline phase and an amorphous phase by at least one of optical means and electrical means, and at least one crystalline
nucleation layer that contains at least one element selected from Bi and Te and at least one element (M1) selected from Sc, Y, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Tb,
10 Dy, Ho, Er, Yb, and Lu and is provided in contact with the recording layer.